

RICHMOND COUNTY SHERIFF'S DEPARTMENT

DOORET CHE OCEY ORIGINAL

Charles B. Webster, Sheriff

Room 2275, Joint Law Enforcement Center 401 Walton Way Augusta, Georgia 30911-2275 **706** 821-1065 FAX (706) 821-1064

PECHIVED

July 26, 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

CC DOCKET NO. 92-77 OPPOSITION TO BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE RE:

Dear Chairman Hundt:

Please be advised that the Billed Party Preference will create a serious problem with security problems at the Richmond County Jail. The passage of this law would open the jail facility for fraud, as well as the public.

One other fact, if the BPP is passed it would put an undue burden on jails already declining operating funds and put already stressed court ordered mandates at risk.

Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (706) 821-1111.

Sincerely,

William E. Johnson Captain/Asst. Jailor

Richmond County Sheriff's Department

401 Walton Way, Rm. B275 Augusta, Georgia 30911

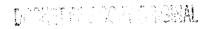
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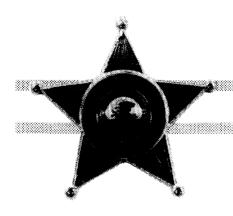
The Honorable James H. Quello

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett

The Honorable Susan Ness





OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF, Stephenson County

Samuel J. Volkert, Sheriff

July 27, 1994

RECEIVED

AUG 1 1994

Reed E. Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington D.C. 20554

RE: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Reit

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We are very concerned that the FCC's solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreased the efficiency of our staff. Please, do not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions—decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted,

Samuel J. Volkert Sheriff

Stephenson County Jail 202 E. Exchange

Freeport, IL 61032

BOLLED LEIGH DARWAL

July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, D. C. 20554

RECEIVED

AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. The correctional facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulation.

Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been key to our success. This service has always been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped us improve it dramatically. We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.

Here are a few of my biggest concerns about Billed Party Preference:

- It strips correctional facility administrators of the right to choose inmate phone providers.
- Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion, an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.
- Without the authority to process calls, inmate phone providers would no longer have the
 revenue to provide the sophisticated phone systems used in prisons. The end result: fewer
 phones with fewer security features. Facilities would have to revert to the old ways of
 supervising each and every inmate call.
- The average length of stay in jail would increase because inmates would not have the phone privileges required to make arrangements for obtaining bond. This costs everyone!
- Under BPP, correctional facilities would no longer have control over inmate calls, which
 means no call tracking or blocking. Inmates could conceivably harass judges, witnesses, jury
 members or even the victims of their crimes.
- Without call control, facilities would be unable to control fraud problems currently handled by inmate phone providers.

For the above reasons, and countless others, we believe that THE COSTS OF BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE FOR INMATE CALLS FAR OUTWEIGH THE BENEFITS. If BPP does become regulation, we urge you to make inmate calls exempt. Thank you for your consideration of my views.

Sincerely

Cat. Ki Shave Captain Kevin Bascue

Finney County Sheriff's Office

July 20, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt. Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, D. C. 20554 RECEIVED

AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: CC Docket #92-77

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Chamas C. Lellquit, Sheif

Sincerely.

No. of Copies rec'd_ List ABCDE

> WINNEBAGO COUNTY SHERIFF DEPT. FOREST CITY, IOWA 50438

GLYNN COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE Post Office Box 793 Brunswick, Georgia 31521

Sheriff's Office Fax, Sheriff's Office 912-267-5660 912-267-5654



GLYNN COUNTY DETENTION CENTER 1812 Newcastle Street Brunswick, Georgia 31520

D. THE HOLD OF THE SERVICE OF THE SE

Detention Center Fax, Detention Center

912-267-5664 912-267-5654

Wayne V. Bennett, Sheriff

July 25, 1994

RECEIPED

AUG 1 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20554 FOC MAIL FOOM

Re: Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are adamantly opposed to the proposed legislation to apply Billed Party Preference (BPP) at the Glynn County Detention Center.

We feel it is important to the security and administration of our facility to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls. We desire to continue to receive this service through a contractual relationship which we have successfully done over the past several years.

BPP will take away an important security feature which is to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. If we break from the contractual relationship we will lose important security phones and equipment which are necessary for the type facility we operate.

Additionally, if we lose the revenues we receive from our current arrangement, we would be unable to provide as much phone access to the inmates as we do at this time. This, of course, will create morale and management problems with the inmate population.

We are in favor of the FCC establishing rate ceilings on inmate calls and enforcing them through our contract. We also believe the majority of Sheriffs would be in favor of a similar arrangement.

In conclusion, we feel strongly that BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative controls necessary for the safe operation of our facility. We ask you not to adopt regulations that will substantially interfere with our administrative and security decisions.

Respectfully submitted,

Ronald W. Corbett/Jail Administrator

Glynn County Detention Center

1812 Newcastle Street, Brunswick, Ga. 31520



RACINE COUNTY SHERIFF'S OFFICE

717 Wisconsin Avenue, Racine, WI 53403-1237 (414) 636-3213 FAX 637-5279 Waterford 534-5166 Burlington 763-9558

Waterford 534-5166 Burlington 763-9558

Sheriff Eric M. Johnson

July 25, 1994

RECEIVED

AUG 1 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 29554 FCC MAIL HOOM

REF: BILLED PARTY PREFERENCE; CC DOCKET NO. 92-77

Dear Mr. Hundt:

I am writing to express my opposition to the Billed Party Preference (BPP) system as it relates to jails and prisons, which is currently being considered by the FCC.

Billed Party Preference will:

- Lessen security controls
- Increase the potential for criminal activity including fraud and harassment
- Eliminate current revenue sharing arrangements which can be used to offset the costs of incarceration

The current system of Operator Service Providers (OSP) deals effectively with issues of security and controlling criminal activity, and offers a competitive market which provides needed municipal revenue without adversely affecting the consumer. Profits generated by this system can be used by Racine County to provide tax relief and offset the costs of incarceration.

I urge you to oppose the Billed Party Preference system.

Thank you for your careful consideration of this matter.

Sheriff, Racine County



Massachusetts Sheriffs' Association

200 Nashua Street Boston, Massachusetts 02114



President

PETER Y. FLYNN
Plymouth County

Vice President
ROBERT J. GARVEY
Hampshire County

Secretary
DAVID R. NELSON
Bristol County

Treasurer

CARMEN C. MASSIMIANO, JR. Past President
Berkshire County

State Director to
National Association
CLIFFORD H. MARSHALL
Past President
Norfolk County

Executive Director

MARIELLEN H. FIDRYCH

Assistant to
Executive Director
GAYLYN M. REILLY

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CHRISTOPHER S. LOOK, JR. Dukes County

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JOHN P. McGonigle Middlesex County

CHARLES H. REARDON Essex County

ROBERT C. RUFO Past President Suffolk County July 29, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 "M" Street, NW Washington, DC 20554

AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77, Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Massachusetts Sheriffs Association opposes the application of Billed Party Preference at inmate facilities.

With our unique security and administrative needs, it is essential to have a single carrier for handling inmate calls. BPP would take away that right and give inmates freedom to choose amongst carriers. That, in turn, would take away our right to coordinate all inmate calls through one carrier via contract, a system that gives us the security we need while safeguarding against fraud and abuse by inmate callers.

We would not be able to install fraud-proof systems without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream used to pay for the system. (In Massachusetts, by law, any additional revenues generated by inmate phones must be used to benefit inmates. In my county, for example, we are installing a comprehensive, co-rom based law library and education system with these funds.)

Were BPP to be adopted, there would be no way to finance our inmate phone systems and no way to get the services that go along with it. That would devastate inmate morale and dramatically increase the tension our staff has to defuse every day.

Letter to FCC

RE: Billed Party Preference

Page 2

Massachusetts sheriffs realize that inmate families should not be unfairly burdened by the cost of phone calls. But we don't believe BPP would solve the problem. A more effective solution would be to allow for a ceiling rate and let sheriffs enforce them contractually with their respective carriers. That, incidentally, is what we did in my county in our recent RFP.

Our fear, should BPP be adopted, is the likelihood of being forced to accommodate a number of different carriers -- companies with no contractual requirements that address our security needs *or* lacking the knowledge and capability to eliminate phone fraud. Or perhaps both.

The Massachusetts Sheriffs Association urges the FCC to steer clear of BPP. It would increase inmate tension and decrease staff efficiency. We believe the security and administrative issues at stake are decisions clearly within our discretion and best left to us, the elected officials of our respective counties.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter Y. Flynn

President

Massachusetts Sheriffs Association

DOCKET FILE COPY ORIGINAL

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20554

RECEIVED

AUG 1 1994

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

FCC MAIL ROOM

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at immate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay for calls. We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decisions -- decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted

Jame/Title

sulding Co. x

Name of Correctional Facility

2000/

ddress Nallas Ba

· 30132

THOMAS F. HIGGINS



WILLIAM G. PAYNE UNDERSHERIFF

SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

AUG 1 1994 SI FOC MAIL ROOM

July 25, 1993

ADMINISTRATIVE OFFICES

TEN DELAWARE AVENUE BUFFALO, NEW YORK 14202-3999 (716) 858-7618 FAX (716) 858-7680

POLICE SERVICES

ONE SHERIFF'S DRIVE ORCHARD PARK, NEW YORK 14127 (716) 662-6150 FAX (716) 662-8477

POLICE EMERGENCY 911

CIVIL PROCESS (716) 858-7606

HOLDING CENTER (716) 858-7636 FAX (716) 858-7712

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M. Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

Dear Chairman Hundt:

The Erie County Holding Center is opposed to the application of Billed Party Preference (BPP) at immate facilities.

We have found it necessary to install sophisticated telephone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

It is imperative that we route inmates calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. Allowing inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please would definitely interfere with the integrity of our security and our administrative rights to not only provide a service to the inmate population but also our obligation to the general public to prevent inmate abuse of same.

To permit Billed Party Preference at inmate facilities would remove our ability to maintain important security and administrative measures that we have implemented at our facility. Consequently, inmate phone availability would be reduced, important revenues for specific inmate programs and equipment would be lost, inmates' needs and those of their families would not be met, and in general, a very costic and volitile environment would be created for both inmates and staff members.

CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference July 25, 1994 Page 2

It is my responsibility as administrator to ensure the safety and security of both staff and inmates as well as the orderly operation of this facility. Therefore, I am strongly opposed to any federal interference with my ability to effectively manage and control inmate telephone services.

Respectfully submitted,

THOMAS F. HIGGINS SHERIFF OF ERIE COUNTY

BY:

JOHN J. DRAY SUPERINTENDENT

ERIE COUNTY HOLDING CENTER

40 DELAWARE AVENUE BUFFALO, NY 14202

cc: Sheriff Thomas F. Higgins Undersheriff William G. Payne RECENTO

AUG 1 1994

July 20, 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street NW Washington DC 20554

Dear Representative Hundt:

As both an employee in the communications industry and a tax paying citizen, I am stating my strong **opposition** to *Billed Party Preterence (BPP)* for 0 + Calls. Further, I respectively request your support in ensuring that Communications Commission Docket 92-77 is defeated.

Confinement facilities are unique and, as such, they require specialized phone system equipment. These systems permit a facility to block an inmate's call to specific numbers, block undesired inbound calls, prevent three-way calling and, overall, reduce fraud and other criminal activity. All of these capabilities are inherent in the equipment which means that, for the most part, intervention by administrative personnel is not required and that the maintenance of security is not jeopardized.

A highly competitive market dictates that the technically sophisticated equipment be installed at little or no cost to the facility and that the provider's commissions be paid to the facility. The commissions facilities receive are a major source of revenue for the inmate welfare funds which finance inmate programs such as family visitation, education and rehabilitation programs. Thus, many of the positive aspects of incarceration are actually being paid for by the inmates.

Succinctly put, most, if not all, of the positive factors derived from the current way of doing business will be discarded if Billed Party Preference becomes a reality. The industry would be going back to the period prior to 1987 when few correctional facilities in the country were paid commissions and many had to pay for their inmate phone service. From a financial point of view, it could be a disaster. Local telephone and long distance companies would no longer have to pay commissions because there would be no competition. Without commissions, facilities would have to turn to their governing body and taxpayers and compete for already scarce resources. Inmate morale funding would be decreased and attended by an increase in inmate control problems. Who would pay for the inmate phone equipment necessary to control calls and prevent fraud and abuse? Again, facilities would have to turn to government sources. Cutting existing programs or increasing taxes would be the requirement to balance budgets. With inmate populations growing at rates estimated from 10 to 15 percent per year, inmate populations could increase by 40 percent by the end of the century. This, of course, will mandate an increase in the number of facilities and manpower to administer them. More inmates and facilities will necessitate more non-revenue producing inmate phone systems if BPP were approved for correctional facilities.

I appeal for your support in **defeating Communications Commission Docket 92-77** with the saying, "If it ain't broke, don't fix it!" Even though inmate phone service is not perfect, a competitive market helps ensure that improvement continues.

Sincerely.

No. of Copies rec'd_ List ABCDE

name a very agreem

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AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

OFFICE OF KINGERSHEE COUNTY SHERIFF

OFFICE PHONE 375

X PHONE 375-4359

IGFISH 1 AA 73750

Danny Graham, Sherif

irry Reilly, Undersheriff

July 27, 1994

The Honorable Reed Hundt, Chairman Federal Communication Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket #92-77

Dear Senator:

I am writing to voice my concerns about the proposed Billed Party Preference regulation. the Correctional Facility inmate phone industry would be severely jeopardized by BPP, affecting inmates, their families and the criminal justice system as a whole. For this reason, we are asking that inmate calls be exempt from the proposed BPP regulation.

Over the past ten years, administrators of correctional facilities have been able to put into place a very effective system for allowing inmate phone calls. The right to choose our phone service provider has been bey to our success. The service has always been delivered to us at very reasonable rates. What's more, inmate phone commissions have been a significant source of revenue for our facility and have helped up improve it dramatically. We use this revenue to fund various programs including: law enforcement education; inmate health, education and recreation; jail personnel safety; drug prevention and other community programs; family visitation etc.

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* It strips correctional facility administrators of the right to choose inmate phone providers.

* Technology for BPP would reportedly cost upwards of \$1.5 billion, an expense that would have to be passed along to the consumer.

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Sincerely,

Darry

Barry Reilly, Undersheriff Kingfisher County

STATE OF NEW YORK



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES

THE STATE OFFICE BUILDING CAMPUS ALBANY, N.Y. 12226

DYNETE FOY BROWN

PEOFICED

AUG 1 1994

July 27, 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

Re:

Billed Party Preference

CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

I'm writing this letter so that I go on record stating that I am against extending "Billed Party Preference" (BPP) to correctional facilities. I believe that such action will provide very little benefit and will, in fact, create significant problems.

Before I discuss my issues, let me describe the Inmate Call Home Program in New York State.

- The New York State Department of Correctional Services (DOCS) currently has approximately 66,000 inmates in 68 facilities located throughout New York State. Each day, inmates place approximately 90,000 calls and complete about 25,000 calls.
- Inmates are allowed to place calls from 7:00 a.m. to 11:00 p.m. daily. Each inmate is allowed 15 active phone numbers on his or her call list. We also maintain a very extensive list of telephone numbers that inmates are <u>not</u> allowed to call.
- There are no live operators involved in the calling. We have bilingual messages that give the inmate and the called party instructions and any necessary feedback if a problem is encountered.
- Call processing is fairly complex. We have developed applications on our mainframe computer that allow inmate counselors to register telephone numbers for an inmate's calling list. The system also takes the daily call detail records for completed and incompleted calls and stores them for later reference as required for operational or investigative purposes. Calls are actually processed through hardware and software located at each facility supplied by Value Added Communications (VAC).

- The VAC system was selected via competitive procurement in which nine bids were received. The VAC contract will end March 31, 1997. At the end of the contract, we will own the hardware and software.
- The VAC system is downloaded nightly with new inmate registration data and other operational data, such as inmate loss of telephone privileges, etc. During this nightly processing, VAC sends us the call detail records for the day.
- Our network is comprised of approximately 2500 State-owned telephones connected to 130 T-1's provided by 10 local carriers via long-term lease arrangements. Long distance service is provided by Rochester Telephone as a subcontractor to VAC.
- The rates charged are the dominant carrier (AT&T or NYNEX) rates for both local and long distance traffic.
- Currently, commission revenues paid by VAC to the Department average \$15 million annually. Over 95% of this money is spent on program services for inmates including bus trips for family visits, cable TV, postage, AIDS education and AIDS medication. If the inmate programs lost this revenue source, it is unlikely the State legislature will appropriate funds for most of these programs. We will also have to ask for about \$5 million in funding to run the Call Home Program, since our contractor will not be providing this service from commission revenue. In our view, BPP preference will cost the Department \$5 million and the inmates could lose up to \$15 million in program benefits.

My more specific concerns are as follows:

- I do not understand how our telephones can be considered public telephones. We do not run a hotel and our guests have no freedom of choice. The constant work and expense we have to go through to provide inmate access, while meeting a competing need for public safety; coupled with the fact that only registered inmates can gain access and use these telephones places us in a rather unique category.
- 2) Experience has taught us to avoid live operators to limit problems. With BPP, when inmates experience problems gaining access, how will the carrier of choice provide feedback to the inmates without live operator intervention? How are we going to get call detail information from each carrier for our files? The importance of this cannot be minimized and not just from the law enforcement investigative perspective. We often work with the inmates and families to resolve problems with the telephone service providers. Without automated and well coordinated data, we are out of the loop to help resolve problems. I want to be very clear about this one thing; live operators and unreliable data are not an acceptable alternative.

- As you can see from my description of the New York State program, we have developed an extensive collection of systems to meet our communication needs. To keep prices down and to maximize revenue, we have made several long-term contractual commitments. If you move forward with BPP, our contracts are void and useless; we basically have to start from scratch again. In the ensuing process, I believe that there is a risk that the network and number of stations could shrink significantly. The result would be increased tension in the facilities and all the risks that follow.
- We have taken the time over the past several years to understand not only the technology of telecommunications, but also the business/market. We lock up the best rates we can on the regulated side of things and use competition on the deregulated side to get good products and pricing. Your actions will basically make the competition dry up and the prison niche will become stagnant, void of competitive pressure. Where is the benefit in all this?

When you last excluded correctional facilities from BPP, I was pleased because I thought you understood why it would be inappropriate and how it could damage a system that actually helps all involved as it currently stands. I strongly urge you to continue to exclude correctional facilities from BPP. Thank you for the opportunity to make this statement.

Thomas A. Coughlin III

Commissioner

cc: Hon. James H. Quello

Hon. Andrew C. Barrett

Hon. Rachelle B. Chong

Hon. Susan Ness



KIRK WILSON COMMISSIONER

RECEIVED

AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 27, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, D.C. 20554

RE: Billed Party Preference; CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt,

It has come to my attention that the FCC is considering the implementation of a "billed party preference" for 0+interLATA traffic. As a Denton County Commissioner, I am strongly opposed to the implementation BPP inmate phone systems.

Denton County is firmly committed to protecting its citizens from criminals. Often times inmates continue to harass their victims from jail with threatening phone calls. Our current specialized inmate phone system gives law enforcement the ability to monitor inmate calls. The BPP inmate phone system does not provide this service.

In addition to the loss of control over inmate calls, the implementation of BPP would a negative budgetary impact. Our budget depends on the revenue generated from the current inmate phone system. Without this money important educational and rehabilitation programs would be eliminated.

Please consider these points carefully as they are vital to this issue. I strongly urge you not to implement BPP so we can continue to protect our citizens from criminals. Please feel free to contact my office if you wish to discuss this issue further. My office phone number is 817-565-8651.

Sincerely,

Kirk Wilson



(803) 554-4700

FAX# 554-9744

Charleston County Sheriff's Office Charleston, South Carolina Detention Bureau



(803) 745-2303 FAX# 745-2256

RECEVED

AUG 1 1994

FCC MAIL ROOM

July 28, 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt, Chairman Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, NW Washington, D.C. 20554

Re: CC Docket No. 92-77 Opposition to Billed Party Preference

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt:

We are opposed to the application of Billed Preference (BPP) at inmate facilities.

We have analyzed the security and administration needs at our facility and have found it to be necessary to route inmate calls from our facility to a single carrier that is equipped to handle inmate calls and with whom we have a contractual relationship. We cannot allow inmates to have open access to the telecommunications network and the freedom to use any carrier they please. BPP will take away our right to coordinate inmate calls through a carrier we know and trust. Instead, inmate calls will be routed to a number of different carriers, none of whom will have any obligation to us, and few that will be trained to handle inmate calls.

We have also found it necessary to install phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate calls. This equipment helps prevent fraud, abusive calls, and other criminal activity over the telephone network. Given the constant budgetary constraints that we are under, we cannot afford to provide this equipment without the help of inmate phone service providers. BPP would also eliminate the revenue stream that finances our inmate phones. If BPP is applied to inmate facilities, there will be no way for us to finance these phones, nor will there be inmate phone service providers to assist us. Without inmate phones, the morale of our inmates will be devastated. The resulting increase in tension will make it more difficult for our staff to manage inmates.

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Furthermore, we are sensitive to the rates inmate families pay We fully appreciate the FCC's concern if some for calls. Sheriffs do not take responsibility for protecting inmate families from abusive rates. We do not agree with the FCC that the solution for this lack of responsibility is BPP. The proper and more effective action would be to adopt rate ceilings on inmate calls and then let Sheriffs enforce these rate ceilings through their contracts. Indeed we believe the overwhelming majority of Sheriffs are committed to requiring rates that are fair and reasonable.

In short, BPP would take away our ability to employ important security and administrative measures that we have found to be necessary at our facility, ultimately reducing inmate phone availability, which in turn decreases the efficiency of our staff. We urge you to not adopt regulations that interfere with our administrative and security decision...decisions that are clearly within our discretion and which we have a public responsibility to make.

Respectfully submitted, Lorna J. Hanson

Chief Deputy/Detention Administrator Charleston County Detention Bureau 3883 Leeds Avenue Charleston, South Carolina 29405



M. L. STALLINGS

SHERIFF OF HALIFAX COUNTY P. O. Box 36 Halifax, NC 27839

July 29, 1994

OFFICE: (919) 583-8201 FAX: (919) 583-2698

RECEVED

AUG 1 1994

The Honorable Reed E. Hundt Federal Communications Commission 1919 M Street, N.W. Washington, DC 20554

FCC MAIL ROOM

Re: Billed Party Preference; CC Docket No. 92-77

Dear Chairman Hundt:

We would like to voice strong opposition to the application of Billed Party Preference at inmate facilities.

Since the Halifax County Detention Center contracted with a single carrier, who provides phone equipment that is specifically designed for inmate cells, we have received very few complaints from the public reference annoying obscene and unsolicited calls from inmates at our Detention Facility.

Inmates at our facility are permitted to use the telephone that is provided in the cellblock, at their leisure throughout the day, resulting in high morale. We have not received complaints from the inmates, nor their families, concerning the cost of the calls.

If there is concern about rates, consideration should be given in setting a fair rate ceiling. In fact, if given a choice, we would forego any revenue received for calls, resulting in a reduction of rates charged to inmates, in order to prevent fraud, abusive calls, and breach of security at our facility.

Sincerely,

M. L. Stallings

Halifax County Sheriff

MLS/oph

xc: The Honorable James H. Quello

The Honorable Rachelle B. Chong

The Honorable Andrew C. Barrett

The Honorable Susan Ness